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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/651,849	08/29/2003	Paul M. Henry	50019.242US01/P05640	8150
23552	7590	12/23/2004		EXAMINER
MERCHANT & GOULD PC				CUNNINGHAM, TERRY D
P.O. BOX 2903				
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2816	

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	HENRY, PAUL M.	
10/651,849		
Examiner	Art Unit	
Terry D. Cunningham	2816	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-13 and 15-20 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) 14 is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on 07 October 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/08/04

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 10, line 4, there is no antecedent for “the first node”. In line 6, there is no antecedent for “the second node”. Also, it is noted that “hat” in line 9 should be changed to --that--.

Claims 11 and 12 are rejected as including the indefiniteness discussed above with claim 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lauffenburger et al. (USPN 6,657,487). Lauffenburger discloses, in Figs. 2 and 3, a circuit comprising: “a first stage means (32) that includes an array of amplifier circuits”; “a common node (outputs of

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switches 48-64)”; “a second stage means (68)”; “a reference signal (output of Gm)”; “a feedback means (72)”; and “a null control means (34)”, all connected and operating similarly as recited by Applicant.

Claims 1-2, 13 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Linder et al. (USPN 5,581,213).

With respect to claims 1-3, 13 and 15-19, Linder et al. discloses, in Figs. 2 and 6, a circuit comprising: “a first amplifier means (g_{m1})”; “a common node (13)”; “a second amplifier means (g_{m2})”; “a reference signal (V_L)”; “a third amplifier means (g_{m3})”; “a second stage means (12)”; “a feedback means (R_{f1} and R_{g1})”; and “a null control means (10)”, all connected and operating similarly as recited by Applicant.

With respect to claim 20, clearly the above circuit to Linder et al. will provide the recited method.

Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sohn (USPN 6,313,964). Sohn discloses, in Fig. 6, a circuit comprising: “a first stage means that includes an array of amplifier circuits (10 and 12)”; “a common node (providing VG)”; “a second stage means (14)”; “a reference signal (VINT)”; “a feedback means (lines connecting VINT to N2 and N6)”; and “a null control means (providing CSIVC)”, wherein at least one of the amplifier circuits includes “a first transistor (N1)”, “a second transistor (N2)”, “a third transistor (P2)”, “a fourth transistor (P1)” and “a fifth transistor (N3 and/or N4)”, all connected and operating similarly as recited by Applicant.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 14 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 11-12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Terry Cunningham whose telephone number is 571-272-1742. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on 571-272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Terry D. Cunningham
Primary Examiner
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